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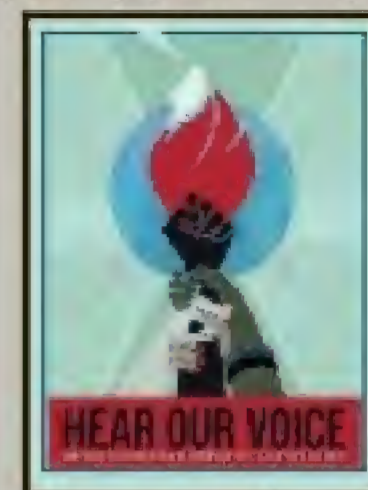
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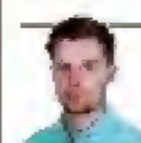
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Local collective wants to open shop — for your projects
metroNEWS

Why sidewalks, snow don't mix

MOBILITY ISSUES

City issues tickets while social media heats up over ploughing



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Shelley Thompson had to help a man in a wheelchair stuck in a snowbank escape last winter on Whyte Avenue.

"He was trying to get across the street, but there was quite a bank of snow at the curb," said Thompson, chair of the accessibility advisory committee with the city, on Tuesday. "It goes to show a half foot of snow makes a difference for people who have mobility challenges."

It also makes for a loud conversation. Thompson's comments come in light of growing complaints on Twitter about the state of sidewalks.

If a sidewalk has piled snow, as has been displayed on social media, it's effectively closed to some, Thompson said.

"Anyone in a wheelchair, scooter or needs that surface area (and) sidewalks

are an important mode of transport," she said.

John Potter, acting superintendent of operations for roadway maintenance, said the city normally ploughs roads and sidewalks at the same time.

But sometimes operators don't realize there's a sidewalk, he added.

"So they plough (snow) up on the sidewalk. Or, if the sidewalk has been cleared already, the operator might misjudge where the snow is going and bury a portion of it."

Sidewalks rarely become impassable, Potter added.

But it's more than piled snow that's causing grief. The city has issued hundreds of tickets to residents because they didn't clear their sidewalks within 48 hours of snowfall.

From Oct. 1 to Jan. 12, the city issued 260 of the \$100 tickets to residents for not keeping sidewalks clear (though it's still roughly 40 per cent less than the 437 tickets that were issued last year during the same time frame).

The worst offender? The Garneau neighbourhood, where residents received 56 tickets.

But there was also an uptick in slip-and-fall complaints. There's been 70 this year while last year saw 34.

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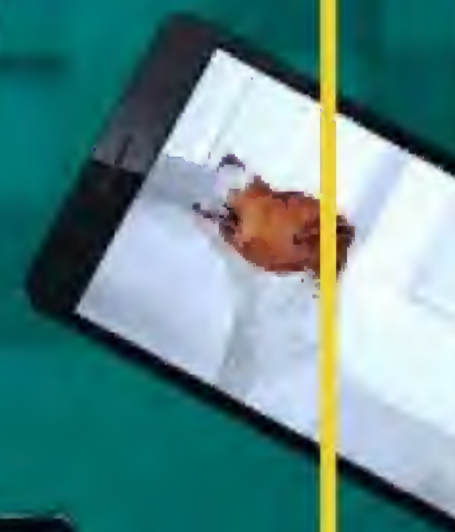
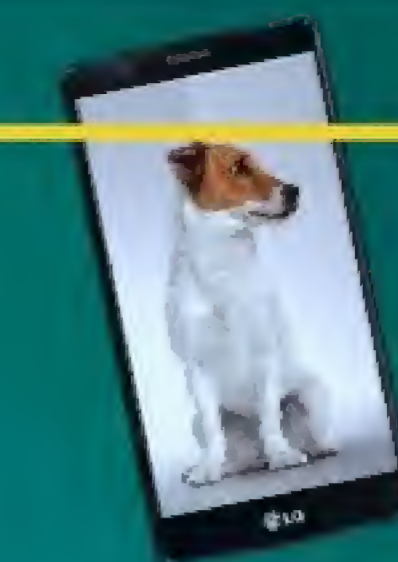
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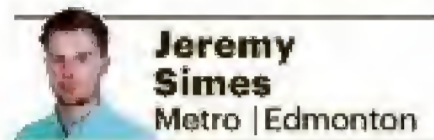
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INFRASTRUCTURE

City seeking a new deal with Ottawa



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

Mayor Don Iveson is poised to expand Edmonton's LRT network, but needs more certainty from the federal government and a shake-up in funding formulas before it moves ahead.

He leaves for Ottawa Wednesday to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Big City Mayors Caucus meeting, where he will outline what Edmonton needs ahead of the 2017 federal budget.

Metro breaks down what Iveson's looking for.

1 New funding formula: Iveson is proposing the federal and provincial governments cover 90 per cent of capital project costs, while the city pays 10 per cent.

Currently, each level of government commits a third of capital costs, but Iveson said the city ends up paying more to operate projects. For example, Edmonton is responsible for 56 per cent of capital costs on the Valley Line LRT. But once you account for all the money that goes into operations, Edmonton's cost-share of that project jumps to 74 per cent over 32 years.

Iveson said this new 90-10 formula would be fair because — by the time all operating costs are accounted for — every level

of government would each be contributing one-third of the costs.

2 Public transit funds:

The proposed funding formula would go hand-in-hand with the expansion of Edmonton's LRT.

Iveson said having larger cash commitments from the feds — where they're covering more than 50 per cent of total costs — lets city planners get cracking sooner on designs.

The cost of the Valley Line from Downtown to Lewis Farms is \$1.8 billion, while expanding the Metro Line from NAIT to Blatchford is \$324 million.

3 Green infrastructure funds: Edmonton is asking the feds and the province to cover 90 per cent of the Blatchford District Energy project, which includes infrastructure that heats, cools and provides water to future residents via renewable energy sources. Iveson said funds could also go into buying electric busses and flood mitigation.

90%

The City of Edmonton will be asking the federal government to cover 90 per cent of capital project costs in the future, while the city will contribute 10 per cent of the price tag.

Remedy Café owner optimistic on future

ECONOMY

Survey: Small businesses to hike spending 17.1% this year



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Remedy Café owner Sohail Zaidi could be the face of renewed optimism among Alberta business owners.

A Business Development Bank of Canada study released this week shows small and mid-size business owners in the province plan to increase spending by 17.1 per cent in 2017 — more than in any other province — after two years of decreases.

The survey also shows 50 per cent of Alberta business owners believe business will improve this year, compared to just 33 per cent last year.

"I'm very confident the economy will do very well," said Zaidi, who goes by 'Zee.'

He is in expansion mode already, having just opened Remedy's fifth location in Terwillegar last year.

And Zaidi already has three more planned: one in Southgate Centre, opening July 1, and additional downtown and Whyte Avenue locations in 2018.



Sohail Zaidi, better known as 'Zee,' at Remedy Cafe on 86 Ave. and 109 St. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

He said he has felt some effects of the recession, but not the harsh blow that's hit others.

"Two years ago we had a lot of corporate catering — the morning coffee, muffins and cookies," he said.

"All the individual people are coming and buying stuff, but we're not doing the 150-200-people catering we did last year."

Some business owners

have said the raising of the provincial minimum wage compounded their struggles, but Zaidi feels it's done the opposite.

He said customers were understanding when Remedy raised prices on items by five to 10 cents to compensate for the raise.

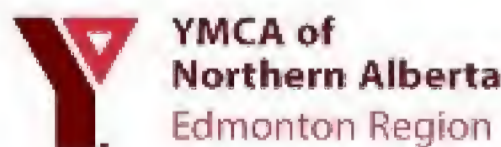
"At the end of the day, we were all happy because we made extra money, which we then paid to the employees,"

Zaidi said.

The Business Development Bank's chief economist Pierre Cleroux said while the survey brings good news, it's important not to be overly optimistic about the numbers.

"Seventeen per cent looks really big, but it's after two years of decline, so we have to be careful with that number," Cleroux said.

"What is important is the trend. The trend is reversing."



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Jamie, now a YMCA personal trainer and fitness instructor



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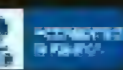
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GARLAND TRIAL

Accused's parents testify

The father of a man charged in the deaths of a couple and their grandchild says his son was angry over some unpaid money.

Archie Garland told court in Calgary his son, Douglas Garland, and Alvin Liknes seemed to get along well when they worked on developing an experimental pump for the oil and gas sector. But he said the relationship soured and Liknes didn't pay his son what he was owed.

He said he told his son it was "just a bump in the road" and "you can't win them all" — but the anger lingered.

Douglas Garland, 56, is charged with first-degree murder in the disappearance of Alvin and Kathy Liknes and their five-year-old grandson Nathan O'Brien in 2014.

Garland's father testified garbage on the farm was incinerated in a burning barrel that wasn't visible from the family home.

The trial heard on Monday that police found DNA evidence from all three victims on the farm and bits of bone and a tooth in the burning barrel.

Under cross-examination, he told defence lawyer Kim Ross that his son could be a bit of a loner.

Doreen Garland painted a troubled portrait of her son whom she said spent a year studying medicine at the University of Alberta, but quit after suffering a breakdown.

"He's my son, I love him ... I think he's an unhappy man," she said.

Doreen Garland said she returned home from a memorial service on June 30, 2014, when she turned on the TV news.

"The next thing that flashed on the screen was a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Liknes and their grandson," she said.

Doreen Garland told her son that it looked as though the couple had taken Nathan.

"He said, 'I don't know. I don't want to talk about the Likneses.' He seemed to have lost interest in any dealings with Mr. Liknes."

The Crown alleges the three victims were violently snatched in the night and taken to a rural property where they were killed and their bodies burned as part of a years-long grudge against Alvin Liknes over the pump's patent.

DNA belonging to Alvin Liknes and Nathan was found on a saw. Kathy Liknes's DNA was found on meat hooks. THE CANADIAN PRESS



He's my son, I love him. I think he's an unhappy man.

Doreen Garland



A wildfire that burned through parts of Fort McMurray in May 2016 lights the sky an eerie orange.

KEVIN TUONG/METRO EDMONTON

Cost of wildfires now at \$10 billion

FORT McMURRAY

Environmental, human toll continues to mount: Study

An assessment of the total financial impact of last spring's Fort McMurray wildfire is pegging the direct and indirect costs of the blaze at almost \$10 billion.

The \$9.9-billion figure includes the expense of replacing buildings and infrastructure as well as lost income, profits and royalties in the oilsands and forestry industries, said MacEwan University economist Rafat Alam.

It also includes early estimates on indirect costs such as environmental damage, lost timber and physical and mental-health treatment for residents and firefight-

ers. The estimate will go even higher, Alam said Tuesday.

Alam said it can take up to 10 years to get a complete picture of everything that happened and what it cost.

Earlier this year, insurers estimated they'd be paying out about \$3.7 billion for damage caused by the blaze which firefighters came to call "the beast."

But that's only the start, said Alam, who conducted the study for the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, an insurance industry research group.

"The insured part is only talking about the physical losses," he said. "There are other losses like loss of revenue for the provincial government and municipality. There are costs for evacuation. There are costs for rehabilitation. These are examples of other direct costs that are not part of the insurance bureau estimation."

Using figures from industry and governments, Alam calculated lost oilsands production at nearly \$1 billion. Provincial disaster recovery efforts added another \$647 million.

Lost labour income totalled \$458 million as Alberta suffered its largest one-month increase of employment insurance claims in seven years. Forgone provincial royalties and taxes cost \$300 million. Indirect costs are valued at \$1 billion.

Alam said the size of the losses should influence municipal and industrial planners working on ever-growing communities in the boreal forest.

"We are increasing the probability of these catastrophic fires," Alam said, who added planners failed to learn from a 2011 fire near Slave Lake, Alta., including incorporating buffer zones. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

City gets \$3M from feds

The Canadian government is investing more than \$3 million for community projects in Edmonton and the Capital Region as part of the country's 150th birthday.

Infrastructure and Communities Minister Amarjeet Sohi made the funding announcement Tuesday at City Hall.

Of the \$3 million, \$500,000 will go to upgrading Queen Elizabeth Park, \$235,428 for a maple leaf playground in Griesbach, and \$296,615 to upgrade the Jamie Platz Family YMCA in West Edmonton. METRO

ENVIRONMENT

Programs to spur energy saving ahead

Environment Minister Shannon Phillips says energy efficiency programs to help Albertans save money will be available as early as March.

Phillips says the first initiatives will give home and business owners the chance to reduce emissions and energy bills. Products themselves will be handled by a third-party group that will set up in high-traffic customer areas.

A second program will allow consumers to apply for rebates when they buy energy efficient appliances such as stoves, dishwashers and refrigerators.

A third will provide business-

es and non-profits rebates on larger energy efficient products such as boilers and heating and cooling systems. Smaller-scale solar power programs will follow later.

The province plans to spend \$648 million over the next five years on energy efficiency products and programs. Another \$2 billion is to be spent on larger infrastructure programs such as rapid transit.

The money is to come from the new carbon tax, which is increasing the costs of gas at the pumps and on home and business heating bills.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DYING LIGHTS COLLECTIVE

Matt Whitford searches for a space to help others build



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Matt Whitford grew up with tools and a garage, but that changed when he moved into an apartment.

He figured his tinkering days were over.

"I lived a long time thinking that you can't do that anymore, and it was all in my head convincing myself of that," he said.

"Then one day I just basically turned my living room into a wood shop."

It spiralled from there, and the Dying Light Collective was born.

Soon Whitford, who designs hydraulics by day, was working on motorcycles and rebuilding guitars in any space he could find, eventually securing a



Matt Whitford is part of the Dying Light Collective, which is raising money to create a space for DIY projects. KEVIN TUONG/METRO

dirt-floored garage.

"I had lots of people asking me if they could pay me to do things and I'd say, 'I have enough projects of my own, but you can come use my tools

and I'll help you out.'"

The Dying Light has launched a fundraiser to fund their own workshop, complete with tools, and expand the services they're able to provide.

The idea is simple: If you've got a thing you've always wanted to build or a skill you've always wanted to master, Whitford wants a space where he can help you.

"We can help you figure it out. You can do it."
Matt Whitford

The non-profit Collective has already offered courses. Last winter it taught students how to strip down and rebuild a motorcycle.

If the fundraiser is successful, Whitford said Collective members will get access to tools, and be able to take courses in everything from 3D modelling to air brushing to small engine repair.

While there are facilities out there to lend people tools, he said the Collective would be different, because it would also give people the know-how, through courses and project management.

"I want to talk to those people who have always said, 'I've always wanted to do this but I don't have the time,' and I want to say to those people, 'We can help you figure it out'" he said. "You can do it."

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Contractor rules get council vote



Jeremy Simes
Metro | Edmonton

City council voted Tuesday to endorse new rules that will determine if possible conflicts of interest exist in the contracts it pays for — and decide whether or not to pursue the contract as a result.

Edmonton will require potential contractors to disclose if they have on staff or intend to use ex-city employees to complete their projects.

If the answer is yes and the potential the ex-city staffer worked within the past two years for the municipal government, the contract will be reviewed for potential conflicts of interest.

The rules come after a scathing audit in September — involving a \$74 million, five-year contract — that found a sand-recycling program had been mismanaged and didn't deliver millions in cost savings.

The audit revealed the contractor for that program was a former city employee.

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PM Justin Trudeau fields questions at a town hall meeting in Fredericton on Tuesday. ANDREW VAUGHN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau mum about vacation

POLITICS

Watchdog investigating use of private helicopter

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau refuses to say how many times he's been to the private Bahamian island of the Aga Khan, the billionaire spiritual leader who has been his family friend since he was a young boy.

Trudeau's recent secret family vacation to the tropical isle has prompted an investigation by the federal ethics commissioner, after opposition MPs complained the trip — which Trudeau admitted included a ride on the Aga Khan's private helicopter — broke the federal Conflict of Interest Act.

Speaking to reporters during a stop on his campaign-style public tour in Fredericton, N.B. on Tuesday, Trudeau also refused to say how many times he has accepted rides on private aircraft owned by the Aga Khan.

"This was a private vacation," the prime minister said

in French, repeating what he has said for several days about his willingness to speak with ethics commissioner Mary Dawson about the trip.

"My office is working with her office to organize the next steps and answer her questions," he said.

Questions about the trip have dogged Trudeau since his office admitted, after refusing to disclose anything about his vacation for several days, that the prime minister, his family and a few friends accepted an invitation to the Aga Khan's private Bell Island during the holidays.

In the face of media pressure, the Prime Minister's Office revealed that the friends on the trip were Newfoundland MP Seamus O'Regan, Liberal party president Anna Gainey and their spouses.

Trudeau has repeatedly justified the trip as a family vacation to visit a longtime friend. But the vacation has come under close scrutiny because of the Aga Khan's foundation in Canada, which has landed more than \$300 million in government aid contracts since 2004 and actively lobbies public officers in Ottawa. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONSERVATIVES

O'Leary still mulling bid for leadership

Kevin O'Leary is refusing to confirm he's ready to join the Conservative leadership race Wednesday after months of testing the waters.

But the possibility that O'Leary, a businessman and reality television personality, will enter the race is being taken seriously by candidates vying to replace Stephen Harper. The CBC reported Tuesday night O'Leary would formally enter the race Wednesday.

Any Mills, a spokeswoman for O'Leary's leadership "exploratory committee," refused to confirm or deny the report when reached by Torstar on Tuesday. Mills did confirm O'Leary is scheduled to give a number of media interviews to react to Tuesday night's Conservative French-language debate.

O'Leary vented his "frustration" that the leadership field still has 13 people vying to replace Harper. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MENTAL HEALTH

Feds fail on First Nations kids: Advocate

An outspoken child advocate is accusing the federal government of dragging its feet in implementing a funding principle aimed at ensuring all First Nations children are able to access necessary services.

At the heart of the dispute is Cindy Blackstock, a long-standing champion of the rights of indigenous children, and Jordan's principle — named for a five-year-old boy who died in hospital in 2005 as the federal and Manitoba governments



Mental health services are available for every other kid and they are not available to First Nations kids. Cindy Blackstock

squabbled over who should cover his home-care costs.

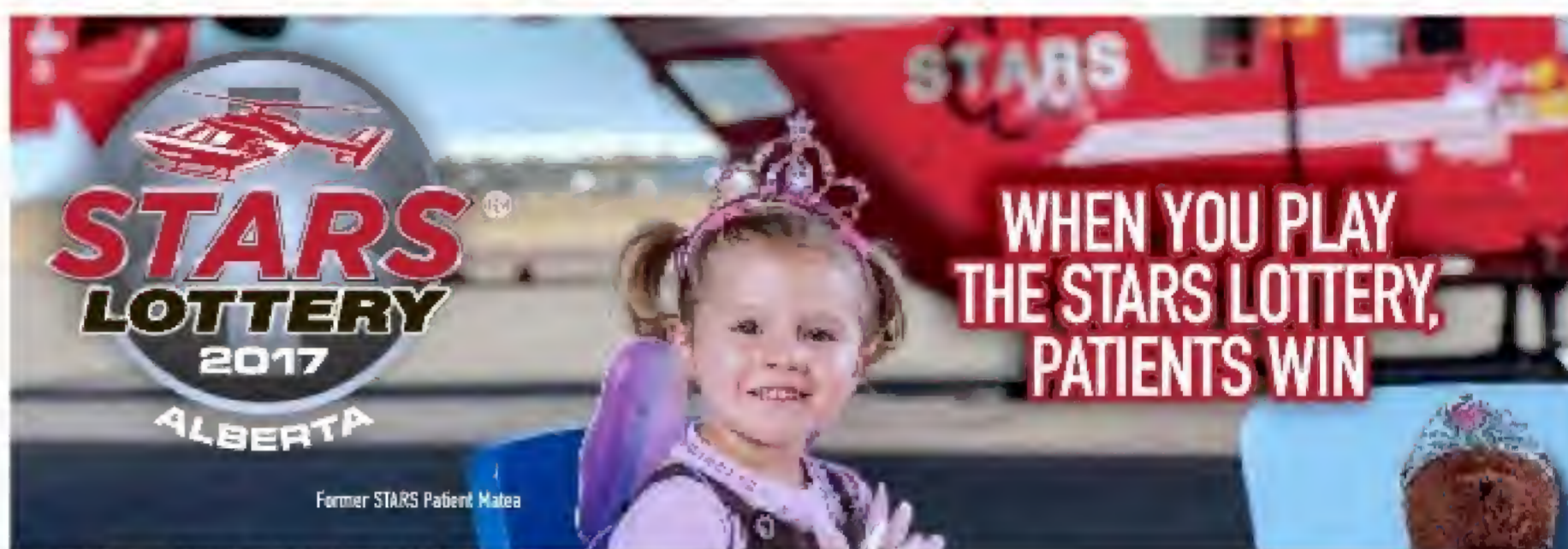
Blackstock is taking issue with documents from February 2016 that show the federal government explored different options for applying the principle, which holds that no indigenous child should suffer denials, delays or disruptions of health services

available to other children due to jurisdictional disputes.

Ottawa was ordered to comply with the principle in January by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal after a nine-year battle led by Blackstock's group, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, and the Assembly of First Nations.

In the documents, the government describes the various choices as a "menu of possible options" for abiding by the tribunal's ruling, including the cost and policy ramifications of each.

There remains a chronic lack of mental health services for indigenous youth across Canada, Blackstock said. She cited the example of Wapekeka First Nation, a remote northern Ontario reserve where two 12-year-old girls died by suicide earlier this month. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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As the helicopter left, with Matea in the care of STARS' air medical crew, her parents felt a flood of relief knowing she was in excellent hands.

Two weeks later, on Matea's last night in hospital, her mother Pam wrote a letter. In it, she counted her blessings and expressed her gratitude. She told her young baby how tremendously grateful she was to have one more day, week, month, year, or decade together.

Every day, parents Pam and Terrace and sister Keziah thank Albertans for helping save Matea's life.

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Manning's sentence commuted

WIKILEAKS

Former Army intelligence officer to be freed in May

President Barack Obama commuted the prison sentence of Chelsea Manning on Tuesday, allowing the Army intelligence officer who leaked scores of classified documents to go free nearly three decades early.

Manning, who will leave prison in May, was one of 209 inmates whose sentences Obama was shortening, a list that includes Puerto Rican nationalist Oscar Lopez-Rivera. Obama also pardoned 64 people, including retired Gen. James Cartwright, who was charged with making false statements during a probe into disclosure of classified information.

"These 273 individuals learned that our nation is a forgiving nation," said White House counsel Neil Eggleston, "where hard work and a commitment to rehabilitation can lead to a second chance, and where wrongs from the past will not deprive an individual of the opportunity to



U.S. President Barack Obama commuted the sentence of Chelsea Manning, who is serving 35 years behind bars for leaking classified documents. AP/GETTY IMAGES



We are all better off knowing that Chelsea Manning will walk out of prison a free woman, dedicated to making the world a better place and fighting for justice for so many. Chase Strangio, Manning's lawyer

move forward."

The actions are permanent, and can't be undone by

President-elect Donald Trump. White House officials said Obama would grant clemency

to more individuals on Thursday - his final day in office - but that batch was not expected to include prominent individuals like Manning.

A former Army intelligence analyst, Manning has been serving a 35-year sentence for leaking more than 700,000 classified government and military documents to WikiLeaks, along with some battlefield video. She was con-

victed in military court in 2013 of six violations of the Espionage Act and 14 other offences and has spent more than six years behind bars. She asked Obama last November to commute her sentence to time served.

Known as Bradley Manning at the time of her 2010 arrest, Manning came out as transgender after being sentenced, and LGBT rights groups took up her cause and lobbied the president to grant her clemency. She was held at a men's prison in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and filed a transgender prisoner rights lawsuit, although the military did approve gender-reassignment hormone therapy.

She attempted suicide twice last year, according to her lawyers, citing her treatment in prison. Manning has acknowledged leaking the documents, but has she did it to raise public awareness about the effects of war on civilians.

White House officials said the president was inclined to grant clemency to Manning because she had expressed remorse for her crimes and had served several years of her sentence. The officials briefed reporters on a conference call on condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLOBAL DIGEST

AUSTRALIA

Minister defends end of hunt for MH370

Australia's Transport Minister Darren Chester said on Wednesday that experts will continue analyzing data and scrutinizing debris washing ashore from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 in a bid to narrow down where it crashed in the southern Indian Ocean. But Chester declined to specify what kind of breakthrough would convince officials to resume the search for the missing airliner that was suspended this week after almost three fruitless years of searching. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHINA

Nine workers killed after cave-in at coal mine

The partial collapse of a coal mine in northern China has left nine people dead, state media reported Wednesday, reflecting the stubborn persistence of safety problems despite years-long efforts to reduce deaths in the sprawling sector. The people killed were doing maintenance inside the shaft when it collapsed. Rescuers saved one person, who is stable in hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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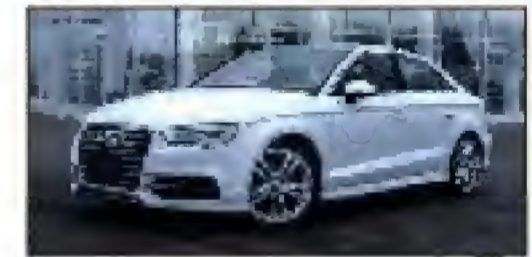
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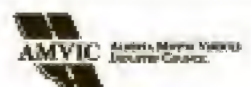
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Georgia Congressman John Lewis made headlines over the weekend for challenging Trump's legitimacy to be the next president. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

More Dems boycotting inauguration

POLITICS

Congressman sparks huge firestorm with Donald Trump

The roster of House Democrats planning to boycott President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration grew to about 50 on Tuesday in a protest of the New York businessman's policies and his repeated criticism of legendary civil rights activist John Lewis.

The Georgia congressman made headlines over the weekend for challenging Trump's legitimacy to be the next president and erroneously claiming that Trump's inauguration would be the first he will have missed since coming to Congress three decades ago.

In fact, Lewis had skipped President George W. Bush's inauguration in 2001.

Trump struck on Tuesday morning, as is typical, on Twitter: "WRONG (or lie!)" Trump tweeted, citing a 2001 Washington Post report that noted Lewis had skipped George W. Bush's inauguration.

Lewis' office on Tuesday confirmed that the congressman had missed Bush's swearing-in.

"His absence at that time was also a form of dissent," said spokeswoman Brenda Jones. "He did not believe the outcome of that election, including the controversies around the results in Florida

PROTEST

A federal appeals court says protesters planning to demonstrate against President-elect Donald Trump can't gather on key portions of the inaugural parade route.

The ruling Tuesday upholds National Park Service regulations that say most of the area known as Freedom Plaza and the sidewalks in front of the Trump International Hotel are limited to bleacher seating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

and the unprecedented intervention of the U.S. Supreme Court, reflected a free, fair and open democratic process."

Lewis said last week that he would skip Trump's swearing in on Friday, telling NBC News that he didn't view Trump as a legitimate president.

The number of Democrats boycotting Trump's inauguration continued to increase, including Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison, a top contender to lead the Democratic National Committee, as well as many black and Hispanic lawmakers. Top Democrats like House Minority leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York will attend, however, and none of the Senate Democrats said they'll skip the inauguration.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFTERSHOCK

Pessimism abounds for young Americans

As Donald Trump approaches his inauguration, young Americans have a deeply pessimistic view about his incoming administration, with young blacks, Latinos and Asian Americans particularly concerned about what's to come in the next four years.

That's according to a new GenForward poll of Americans aged 18 to 30, which found that the country's young adults are more likely to expect they'll be worse off at the end of Trump's first term than better off. Such young

Americans are also far more likely to think Trump will divide the country than unite it, by a 60 per cent to 19 per cent margin.

Fifty-two per cent of young whites, 72 per cent of Latinos, 66 per cent of Asian-Americans and 70 per cent of blacks think Trump's presidency will lead to a more divided nation.

"Minority people are very

70%

Nearly three quarters of black Americans think Trump will further divide the U.S.

afraid of all the rhetoric that he ran upon (in) his campaign," said Jada Selma, a 28-year-old African-American graduate school student living in Atlanta. "Anytime he mentioned black people, he would talk about poor people or inner city. He would think that all of us live in the inner city and that we're all poor."

"If you're not a straight white

male, than I don't think he's looking out for you as an American," she said.

GenForward is a survey of adults age 18 to 30 by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The first-of-its-kind poll pays special attention to the voices of young adults of colour, highlighting how race and ethnicity shape the opinions of a new generation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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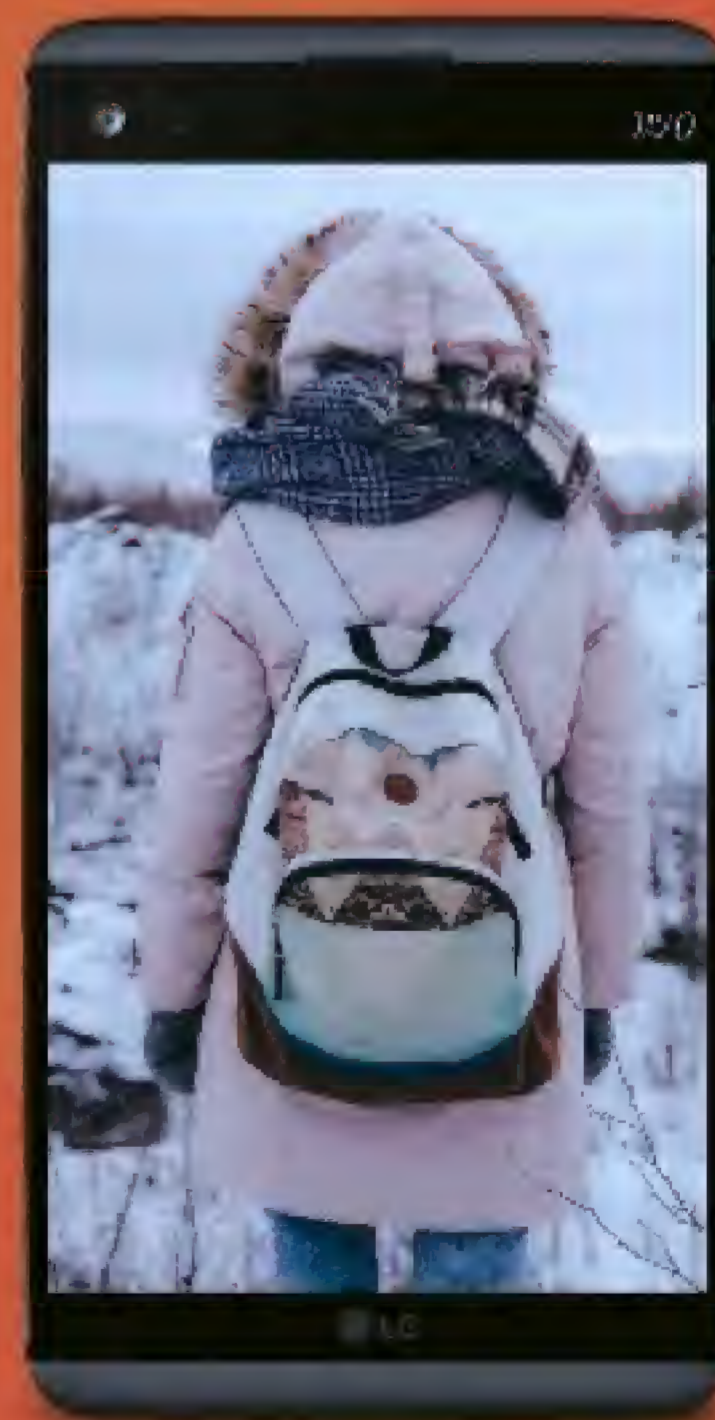
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Cost rises to insure loans

MORTGAGES

Fed housing agency's move aims to cool market: Expert

Canada's federal housing agency is hiking the cost of mortgage loan insurance for homebuyers starting March 17, as part of new regulatory requirements requiring it to hold more capital to offset risks in the country's red-hot real estate market.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. said Tuesday it doesn't anticipate the increases will have a "significant impact" on homebuyers and expects the changes will add about \$5 to a monthly mortgage payment for those with an average CMHC-insured loan of approximately \$245,000.

But taken together with other changes recently put in place in an effort to cool down Canada's housing market, James Laird, co-founder of interest rate-comparison website RateHub, says the CMHC increase will have an effect on



Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) President and CEO Evan Siddall addresses the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade in November. THE CANADIAN PRESS

homebuyers, particularly those who will be purchasing property for the first time.

"This is the latest in a long string of regulations brought down by the federal government making it more difficult to enter the housing market,"

said Laird, citing higher down payment requirements, higher qualifying interest rates and shorter amortization periods introduced last year.

"It's clear by the government's actions through 2016, and by this move, that they

continue to be concerned about an overheating housing market. So once again, this is another move to make it more difficult to buy."

CMHC says the new premium changes are calculated based on the loan-to-value ratio

+ DOWN PAYMENT

■ Lenders typically require mortgage loan insurance when a homebuyer makes a down payment of less than 20 per cent.

■ The cost can be paid in a single lump sum, but CMHC says the amount is often added to the mortgage principal and repaid over the life of the loan.

of the mortgage being insured. The size of the increase in rates depends on that ratio.

For instance, new homeowners who make a down payment between five to 9.99 per cent can expect an increase of \$6.59 to their monthly mortgage if their loan is \$350,000.

For the same loan amount, those with a 10 to 14.99 per cent down payment face an increase of \$11.52 a month, while those with a down payment between 15 to 19.99 per cent will pay \$16.46 more a month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AIR TRAVEL

Glitch disrupts flights

Air Canada saw its operations disrupted by a computer glitch Tuesday that resulted in delayed flights and cancellations.

The Montreal-based airline said the IT system hardware problem was resolved by the afternoon, but not before it caused problems at airports and online.

Several Air Canada flights departing from its hub at Toronto's Pearson International Airport and Montreal's Trudeau International Airport were cancelled.

On its website, the airline said some of the flights were affected by adverse weather including freezing rain. However, it also acknowledged that "a small handful" of flights were cancelled because of the outage.

The troubles came days after Toronto-based Porter Airlines experienced a computer outage that saw forced a 2.5-hour ground stop Saturday. Five Porter flights were cancelled and about 400 passengers had to alter their travel plans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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METRO FOCUS ON
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JESSICA ALLEN ON PROTESTS OVER HOLLYWOOD CASTING



It never ceases to surprise that television and movie producers keep feigning shock and innocence when accusations of white-washing shower down on them.

The outrage over casting Joseph Fiennes, a white English actor, as Michael Jackson, an African-American pop star, in a new British satirical television series, *Urban Myths*, started a year ago. It crescendoed last week when Jackson's daughter, Paris, tweeted that the newly released trailer featuring Fiennes in facial prosthetics made her "want to vomit."

In an unusual twist, *Urban Myths'* broadcaster, Sky Arts, responded to the backlash and shelved the episode, in which MJ, Marlon Brando, and Elizabeth Taylor take a post-9/11 road trip. Too bad, because I'd really like to see Brian Cox play Brando and Stockard Channing channel Liz.

But I get it. What's surprising is that television and movie producers keep feigning shock and innocence when accusations of white-washing shower down on them.

This example, of course, is more complicated than most. Many pointed out that an African-American actor would've had to undergo just an extreme transformation — if not more — as Fiennes did to play Jackson.

We can't ask Jackson's opinion. But in a 1993 interview with Oprah, he was very clear about his racial identity. Wilfrey went through a laundry list of tabloid stories — the oxygen chamber, procuring the Elephant Man's bones — while Jackson explained why they were nonsense. Then she got to the rumour about him

wanting a white boy to play him in a commercial. "That is so stupid," he said, exasperated. "That is the most ridiculous horrifying story I've ever heard. It's crazy. Why would I want a white child to play me? I'm a black American. I'm proud to be a black American. I am proud of my race. I am proud of who I am."

I wouldn't be surprised if the folks involved with *Urban Myths* never saw that interview, though it was the most

woman, in *Dragon Seed*.

But deciding to cast Joel Edgerton as Ramses II and Christian Bale as Moses, for example, in 2014's *Exodus*? Or Jake Gyllenhaal as the Prince of Persia? Or having a white man save jazz in *La La Land*?

On one hand, some of these movies wouldn't have gotten made without a bankable A-listers. (In the case of *Aloha*, Cameron Crowe's 2015 execrable film starring Emma Stone as a character of Hawai-

diverse casting, the Oscar conversation would be totally different," author and journalist Jeff Yang told *IndieWire* in a roundtable last year pegged to #OscarSoWhite. "Each of these guys can literally choose to cast anyone they want, with little opposition from money guys or studios."

Confession here: I used to get so excited when people would include Elizabeth Taylor as Cleopatra on Hollywood white-washing lists because it meant I could finally put my classics degree to use. "Cleopatra was an Egyptian pharaoh, the last actually," I'd say, smugly. "But she was Macedonian, descended from Alexander the Great's general Ptolemy."

More recently, however, when the same outrage surfaced over the idea of Angelina Jolie playing the Queen of the Nile, I paused.

I'm not sure sanctimonious historical arguments like my old chestnut about Cleo hold much sway today. When we talk about this type of casting, we're talking as much about how we live now as about the who, what, where and when of the subject. And anyone who rolls their eyes at that would be well advised to remember the wounded outrage of angry men throwing racial epithets at Leslie Jones because a woman put on a proton pack or those who felt there was no place for John Boyega, a black English actor, in *The Force Awakens* — and told him so. There are literally green people in that galaxy far, far away.

Whether a story takes place a long time ago or in recent memory, remember what William Faulkner once wrote: "The past is never dead. It isn't even past."

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's *The Social*.



VICKY MOCHAMA

All for one, one for all? Not quite

The Women's March on Saturday will bring together women — and men, FYI — from across the globe to protest Donald Trump's presidency.

From the outset, however, the march's effort to rally women echoed a history of fissures and fractures within the feminist movement.

Separately but simultaneously, two women — Bob Bland, a fashion designer in New York and Teresa Shook, a grandmother in Hawaii — conceived of a protest in the nation's capital.

Despite their eagerness, neither woman was a professional organizer. Further, the march was called the Million Woman March. Almost immediately, women of colour criticized the event for failing to be inclusive; racialized women with experience planning mass protests could have anticipated the obstacles. For black women especially, the name was a copycat of a 1997 march for black women which, it seemed, organizers had not known about.

The organizers quickly put women of colour at the top of the organizing committee.

But longstanding grievances had already been aired.

During the election, the Clinton campaign tied the candidate's trajectory to the 1848 Women's Rights Conventions in Seneca Falls. No women of colour were present at that meeting. (Only Frederick Douglass, a black man, was present.) By frequently citing this moment, Clinton evoked a history based on intentionally excluding women of colour.

In the activist era of the '60s and '70s, this brand of white feminism entered mainstream politics. Betty Friedan's *Feminist Mystique* may have given voice to "the problem that has no name" but she was also vocal in excluding lesbians. While white feminists campaigned for (some) women's rights on education, work and reproduction, they were, as a whole, nowhere to be found on civil rights.

Race, sexuality and gender are still contentious within feminism. You might call it in-fighting but it's really a push for accountability. Big or small, each conflagration among feminists is necessary to creating more a inclusive and effective movement. So-called in-fighting is essential for reminding us that modern feminism is still, and always will be, a work in progress.

When Lena Dunham complained that Odell Beckham Jr., a receiver for the New York Giants, had ignored her because she wasn't a model, black women called her out for perpetuating a dangerous myth about black male sexuality. Dunham — along with Amy Schumer, whom Dunham was interviewing about how great they both are — then asked Xavier Burgin, a black male filmmaker to talk the issue through with them.

Nearly 170 years after Seneca Falls, white feminists chose to listen to a black man rather than black women.

As the buses roll into D.C., remember that a common enemy doesn't quite mean we are all on the same team.



Joseph Fiennes, as Michael Jackson, and Stockard Channing, as Elizabeth Taylor, appear in a scene from a shelved episode of the British TV series *Urban Myths*. CONTRIBUTED

watched in television history. But it's impossible that they wouldn't be aware that casting Fiennes would be contentious.

It's easier to give old Hollywood a pass, as we do when grandpa Doug calls Asians "Orientals." Things were different back then: John Wayne played Genghis Khan, Laurence Olivier played Othello, and Katharine Hepburn took a turn as Jade Tui, a Chinese

ian and Chinese decent, that might not have been a bad thing.) And the pool from which A-listers are drawn is very white.

On the other, people in power could lead by example: "If eight white men — Wes Anderson, David O. Russell, Richard Linklater, Steven Soderbergh, the Coen Brothers, Quentin Tarantino and Woody Allen — were to commit to

ACTIVIST WISDOM Know your history!



"Must we reinvent the wheel, or have we been in a similar situation before? Building a sense of history is important for today's activists. History isn't just what came before; it's a process of working through and evaluating things in our own contexts, with our own insights. From looking at earlier periods, struggles, strategies, gains and defeats, we can better understand how power is reproduced and find weaknesses and contradictions in the system." - Prof. Aziz Choudry, author of *Learning Activism: The Intellectual Life of Contemporary Social Movements*

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As she celebrated her birthday Tuesday, Betty White says the best thing about being 95 is that she's still employed.

Carrey back where it all began

TV SERIES

Actor takes a walk down memory lane for new show

Jim Carrey is standing on the steps of the Ice House, the legendary comedy club that helped launch a thousand careers, including his own.

"Man, those were the days," says Carrey, impish grin showing through a Duck Dynasty-worthy beard. "The last time I was here doing stand up was maybe more than 20 years ago with Roseanne Barr. That was a long time ago."

It's also a long way from Newmarket, Ont., where Carrey was born. He would come to Hollywood seeking fame — eventually becoming one of the highest-paid actors in the world starting with movies such as *The Mask* and *Ace Ventura*, and then more critical work such as *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

But this is the type of club that Carrey would hone his craft, waiting for that shot at fame. The walls of the Ice House are lined with framed photos of his contemporaries and the greats who performed in a dingy room that has seen better days, including David Letterman, George



Jim Carrey, shares a laugh with *I'm Dying Up Here* star Michael Angarano, main, before returning to close confines of the stage at the Ice House comedy club. GETTY IMAGES/TONY WONG

Carlin, Jerry Seinfeld and Steve Martin.

But would Carrey ever do stand up again?

"I don't know. I wouldn't make a rule against it, I kind of go with the flow and what the universe wants me to do. I don't have any desire to do it right now."

In homage to his earlier days, Carrey is making an appearance at the club, but this time as a

client. He's the executive producer of Showtime's *I'm Dying Up Here*, partly based on his life experiences and the infamous 1970's stand-up comedy scene. The show has a winning ensemble, including Academy Award winning actress Melissa Leo as a gritty club owner.

Carrey takes to the tiny stage to introduce the cast. But, despite earlier protestations, it seems you can't take the stage

out of the comic. Carrey launches into an impromptu mini-routine.

He reminds his fellow comic that he was there first: "I have it all. They're going for the grail. But, they can't catch the grail man. It's mine."

In many ways, that's true. Few comics will reach the level of Carrey's stardom. But, it wasn't an easy road. The show depicts stand up as combat sport. As the circle of characters will learn,

there is nothing more vulnerable than an open mike, a hostile audience and a predilection for self-sabotage. And it makes for intriguing, heartfelt drama as you root for some incredibly damaged human beings.

Although partly autobiographical, Carrey says he created the show to also pay tribute to the comedy greats that inspired him.

"I just wanted to pay homage to these places you know,

like this club we're in, to the era and to that phenomenon. You know the '70s coming out of Vietnam, and coming out of all of that energy, just like these people just bursting out and like expressing themselves like no one has ever before," says Carrey. "It was a time when you're getting a little help from the godfathers like Lenny Bruce and Richard Pryor. I remember being in a parking lot as a 19-year old comic and they're saying here's what you're doing wrong. Here's what you're doing right. That meant the universe to me."

Many of Carrey's experiences — not all good — have made it into the art of the show. All his history demands a meaty autobiography. But, he'll settle for an edgy cable series. The series airs on Crave TV in Canada in June.

"I'm hoping that people will get transported back to a place that was magic man and they'll fall in love with these people," says Carrey. "Wonderfully flawed, creative, desperate people who just like them, want to be super heroes and I think it was never more evident than in a comedy club, they are part of a circus. And it's altruism as well, because comics want to love people and be loved back, that's the purest thing you can do for an audience, is to free them from their concerns."

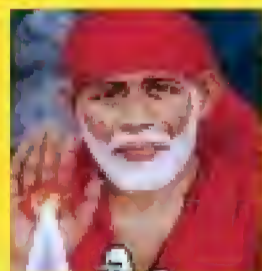
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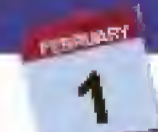


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Tired, envious and gassy: Welcome to the 10-day detox

Despite a lack of evidence they're good for you, detox programs are wildly popular. Wanting to get a healthy start in January after gaining 16 pounds in 2016, **Melissa Dunne** decides to try one anyway.

Cold-pressed juice cleanses are no longer in style. Lately, editors at fashion bible Vogue, and other trendsetters, are preaching slightly less severe measures.

Detoxes that focus on preparing and eating whole foods are being hocked by everyone from celebrities to fit nutritionists and cookbook authors such as Joy McCarthy and Melissa Hartwig.

Hartwig, in particular, has gained a cult following — with her *The Whole30* book spending 66 weeks and counting on *The New York Times* bestseller list. Acolytes of hers, and similar programs, are generally not allowed to consume a long list of foods, drinks, and additives for 30 days. Many programs also offer a 10-day, or even two-day, detox plans.

If you do manage to stick with Hartwig's 30-day program, her website promises it "will change your life." But, registered dietitian Andrea Miller warns people need to be wary of such promises.

"There is no solid scientific research on detoxes, it's mostly anecdotal information," said Miller in a phone interview from Whitby, Ont.

"I advise my clients to look at the source and ask themselves: 'Does (the person selling the detox) have something to gain from this?'"

The nutrition expert also points out that there is gener-

ally no need for healthy people to do a detox program as our bodies already naturally detox via our kidneys and liver.

Which doesn't mean Miller is staunchly against the concept, saying that if a program helps some people get in the habit of preparing and eating more whole foods on a regular basis, then that can be a good thing.

What's not such a good thing is the temporary nature of detoxes, she warns. Programs with strict rules means many adherents may white-knuckle their way through a time-based plan only to inevitably return to their unhealthy eating habits the minute it's over.

Beyond the end of January, Miller recommends setting some SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and trackable) nutrition and fitness goals you can reach throughout 2017.

Now that sounds like a smart plan most of us could stick to for longer than 30 days.



There is no solid scientific research on detoxes. It's mostly anecdotal information.

Andrea Miller, dietitian



DETOX DELIGHTS Melissa Dunne's 10-day program mixed DIY dishes and adapted store-bought bowls. MELISSA DUNNE

GOOP OR JOYOUS? TWO DETOXES YIELDING SIMILAR RESULTS

Why Melissa Dunne's first 10 days of 2016 were a struggle For me, last year was an *annus horribilis*.

The cherry on my misery sundae was that I ended 2016 exactly 16 pounds heavier than a mere year earlier. Admittedly, I had been eating too much ice cream to soothe my frayed nerves. So, in a bid to start this year with fewer sundaes and more smoothies, I did a 10-day detox.

For the first five days of 2017 I followed the plan from *Goop*

Clean Beauty, written by the editors of Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyle publication.

The rules were, no: alcohol, caffeine, dairy, eggs, beef, pork, shellfish, raw fish, gluten, soy, nightshades, strawberries, oranges, grapefruits, grapes, bananas, corn, white rice, sugar, peanuts, processed oils, and processed butters.

Thankfully, I then consciously uncoupled from that detox for the remaining five days, following the rules

in the new book *Joyous Detox* by Joy McCarthy. These rules were, no: refined sugar, artificial sweeteners, dairy, gluten, peanuts, unfermented soy, corn, alcohol, coffee, and genetically modified organisms.

On both detoxes I had throbbing headaches; felt constantly exhausted; burned with jealousy when my friends gorged on snacks; and spent an inordinate amount of time on the ceramic throne. Mistakes? I made a few (like

not realizing there is caffeine in decaf coffee).

In the end, I lost a measly two pounds. But, what I did gain was a renewed belief that I am strong enough to make this year better than the last.

That may sound a little corny to some, but after not being able to eat corn for a week and a half I'll take what I can get.



READ MELISSA DUNNE'S FULL DETOX DIARY AT METRONEWS.CA

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surprisingly decent tasting stuff to Alberta. Better to indulge in a drop made by a true American winemaking celebrity like Robert Mondavi. The late Californian was an undisputed pioneer whose forward-thinking and class continues to inspire winemakers around the world.

His namesake 2014 Private Selection Cabernet Sauvignon (\$15.99-\$19.99) is lightly oaked and made from grapes grown throughout the Golden State. Rich, dark and chewy, it's ideal with red meats, and with the amalgamation in mind, a full serving of baloney.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.



Whatever Dante's Inferno type scenario gets unleashed this Friday when Donald J. Trump is sworn in as president of the United States, I have no doubt that the majority of the world will be crying into a large glass of something alcoholic. Odds are Trump will be popping a few corks of sparkling wine from the family's eponymous winery his son runs in Virginia. It's unlikely you'll find a bottle on this side of the border easily if you're a supporter. They only appear to export their

APPLE UPGRADE

Take a bite and add more Pazazz to your palate

Move over Honeycrisp, the next generation has arrived and it's full of Pazazz!

After 10 years of development, the new apple with the crunchy texture of its Honeycrisp mom and its very own burst of sweet-tart flavour is available from now until the end of February.

Deep red with a creamy yellow or white background, Pazazz has inherited the delicate cell structure of its Honeycrisp parent, which revolutionized the apple industry back in 1991 by combining a sweet flavour with a supercrisp, super-juicy texture.

Pazazz is not genetically modified, it was developed using traditional breeding methods. It is not being grown in Ontario because its breeders feel that, like Honeycrisp, it grows better in Nova Scotia's cooler climate.



TORSTAR
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**ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER**

THIS WEEK: Which of these soft Italian cheeses is hard on the fat counter?

An easy substitution between these two cheeses can make for lighter dishes.

PICK THIS

Tre Stelle Extra Smooth Ricotta (per 55g)

Calories 90
Fat 6g
Saturated Fat 4g

**SKIP THIS**

Tre Stelle Mascarpone (per 55g)

Calories 170
Fat 15g
Saturated Fat 10g

**HERE'S WHY**

Equivalent to an Arby's Classic Roast Beef Sandwich in fat.

Mascarpone is a rich cheese made from cream and is a favourite ingredient for desserts, most notably the Italian dish Tiramisu. The creamy cheese is also used in pastas, risottos, sauces, cheesecakes and as a topping for soups. However, its decadent nature means high amounts of calories, fat and artery-clogging saturated fat. Ricotta, made from milk and whey, is a much lighter alternative to cook and bake with; it has about half the calories and fat of mascarpone.

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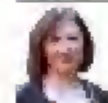
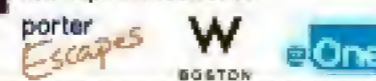
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**JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Unsettling...and made for our anxious times

THE SHOW: A Series of Unfortunate Events, Season 1, Episode 2 (Netflix)

THE MOMENT: "We're all frightened"

The brilliant, plucky Baudelaire children — tweens Violet (Malina Weissman) and Klaus (Louis Hynes), and baby Sunny (Presley Smith) — believe their parents died in a fire. They've been taken in — kidnapped — by Count Olaf (Neil Patrick Harris), an evil actor who craves their fortune. Behind the scenes, mysterious good guys Jacquelyn (Sara Canning) and Gustav (Luke Camilleri) plot via phone.

"Dr. Montgomery was supposed to be their new guardian," Gustav says. "What went wrong?"

"Mr. Poe listened to the advice of a consultant," Jacquelyn says.

"A consultant!" Gustav exclaims. "Dear God, why would anyone listen to a consultant! The children must be frightened."

"We're all frightened, Gustav," Jacquelyn replies.

Meanwhile in their attic



Neil Patrick Harris's money-craving Count Olaf adds to the sense of unease in A Series of Unfortunate Events. CONTRIBUTED

chamber, Klaus and Violet talk. "Sunny must be so frightened," Klaus says.

"We're all frightened, Klaus," Violet replies.

I'm ambivalent about the Lemony Snicket books this series is based on (by Daniel Handler, who also writes the show). The writing is clever, but smug about its cleverness. The pileup of unfortunate events, which are frustratingly preventable, make me anxious. The message — that pluck and resourcefulness can ease, though not always conquer, depressing situations — is true, but sad. I'm having the

same struggles with the series.

I do, however, marvel at how prescient it feels for this anxious moment in time. Uninformed people acting in error because they listened to the wrong advice? Marginalized good guys wondering how to fix things? A conscienceless money-grubber who kidnapped us when we were meant to have a proper, qualified guardian?

We're all frightened, world.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



All the right proportions



REVIEW

Solid looks, solid ride, but where's the AWD?



Jodi Lai
AutoGuide.com

Tiny crossovers are the hottest thing in cars right now, and any automaker that doesn't have one is really behind the times.

Instead of putting a huge amount of dollars into making its own small crossover, Infiniti is piggybacking on a Mercedes platform and has come up with the QX30.

The tester here is the 2017 Infiniti QX30 Sport model, which is the topline model that comes packed with performance upgrades and almost all the features drivers want. More on that later.

I prefer the look of the Infiniti model over the GLA it's based on. The QX30 is much more stylish, a lot less generic, and it definitely looks more modern. The GLA has a beefier, boxier and more muscular look, but I like the swoopy lines of the Infiniti better.

The problem with that pretty design is that practicality takes a hit in terms of cargo capacity, room for rear passengers and sightlines. One of the biggest drawbacks of the QX30 is that it's really hard to see out of. The blind spots are huge, the windows are tiny, and even the windshield is so swept back that it doesn't give drivers a lot to

work with.

Luckily this QX30 Sport, which is the fully loaded top of the line model, is equipped with a rear-view camera along with a top-down 360-degree view camera that makes parking and squeezing into tight places much easier.

Although the seven-speed dual clutch transmission gets confused sometimes at lower speeds and can shift abruptly now and then, it's not a deal breaker.

The QX30 is powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder engine that outputs 208 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque. That's plenty to get the crossover moving, but the engine isn't the smoothest at low speeds and it displays some turbo lag. At highway speeds, however, the engine exhibits Ryan Gosling smoothness. Very little noise and vibration make it into the cabin during highway drives.

This Sport model gets no power upgrades over the regular QX30, but it does get better brakes and a suspension that's tuned for better handling. That sportier suspension definitely makes the ride in the city more choppy, but it does mean that it's better in the corners, which is an OK compromise.

The weird thing is that this top of the line QX30 Sport isn't available with all-wheel drive, which seems like a missed opportunity. Buyers have to level down to get all-wheel drive. This was likely a move to keep the price in check, especially because this Sport model has so many other features. I can imagine it getting pretty expensive if it had all-wheel drive.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 INFINITI QX30 SPORT

THE BASICS

Engine: 2.0L turbo 4-cylinder
Output: 208 hp, 258 lb-ft of torque
Transmission: Seven-speed dual-clutch auto
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 9.7 city, 7.1 hwy
Price: Sport model starts at \$46,490



LOVE IT

- Great driving dynamics
- Stylish look
- Smooth highway driving

LEAVE IT

- Can get pricey
- Lack of AWD on topline model
- Poor sightlines

ROUND UP

These cars are surprisingly fun and affordable



Dan Ilika
AutoGuide.com

Here's the thing about fun cars: They don't always have to be fast.

Sure, a good turn of speed is always appreciated, but driving enjoyment doesn't hinge on it. Luckily, there are plenty of affordable options on the market that can provide some entertainment this side of the speed limit. And so without further ado, here are, in no particular order, five cars that may not slay with

speed, but do offer a surprising bit of fun behind the wheel.

Subaru Impreza

The new Impreza easily makes this list for its suddenly smile-inducing ways. Despite its shared bloodlines with the fun-defining WRX and STI models the Impreza has long been anything but exciting, doing little to impress when the turns tighten. That all changes in its fifth generation, with a stiff new chassis and revised suspension setup making a world of difference. Add in its reasonable price — the torque-

vectoring-equipped Sport version is priced at \$24,395 for a sedan and \$25,295 for a hatch — and the Impreza is frugal and fun.

Mazda6

Of all the midsize sedans on the market, Mazda's offering may be the most engaging of the bunch. Sure, its four-cylinder engine can feel a bit underpowered at times, with only 184 horsepower and 185 lb-ft of torque to work with, but the Mazda6 has plenty else going for it. A rigid chassis and sporty suspension

+ HYBRID HOOPLA

Honda Accord Hybrid

The electrified Accord makes the list not just as an obligatory hybrid, but because it is actually capable of some semblance of fun in its second generation.

more than make up for what it lacks in pure power, leading to plenty of thrills on winding roads. The car's pricing

provides another perk, with the manual-equipped Mazda6 starting at just \$26,525.

Honda Fit

A roomy cabin and clever configurability are just two of the many reasons this wee wagon outshines the competition. And while the Fit isn't fast, it's definitely fun. Get up to speed by squeezing all 130 horsepower and 114 lb-ft of torque out of its 1.5-litre engine and the Fit feels firm and unfurrowed. It's also easily the most inexpensive car on this list, starting at \$14,950.

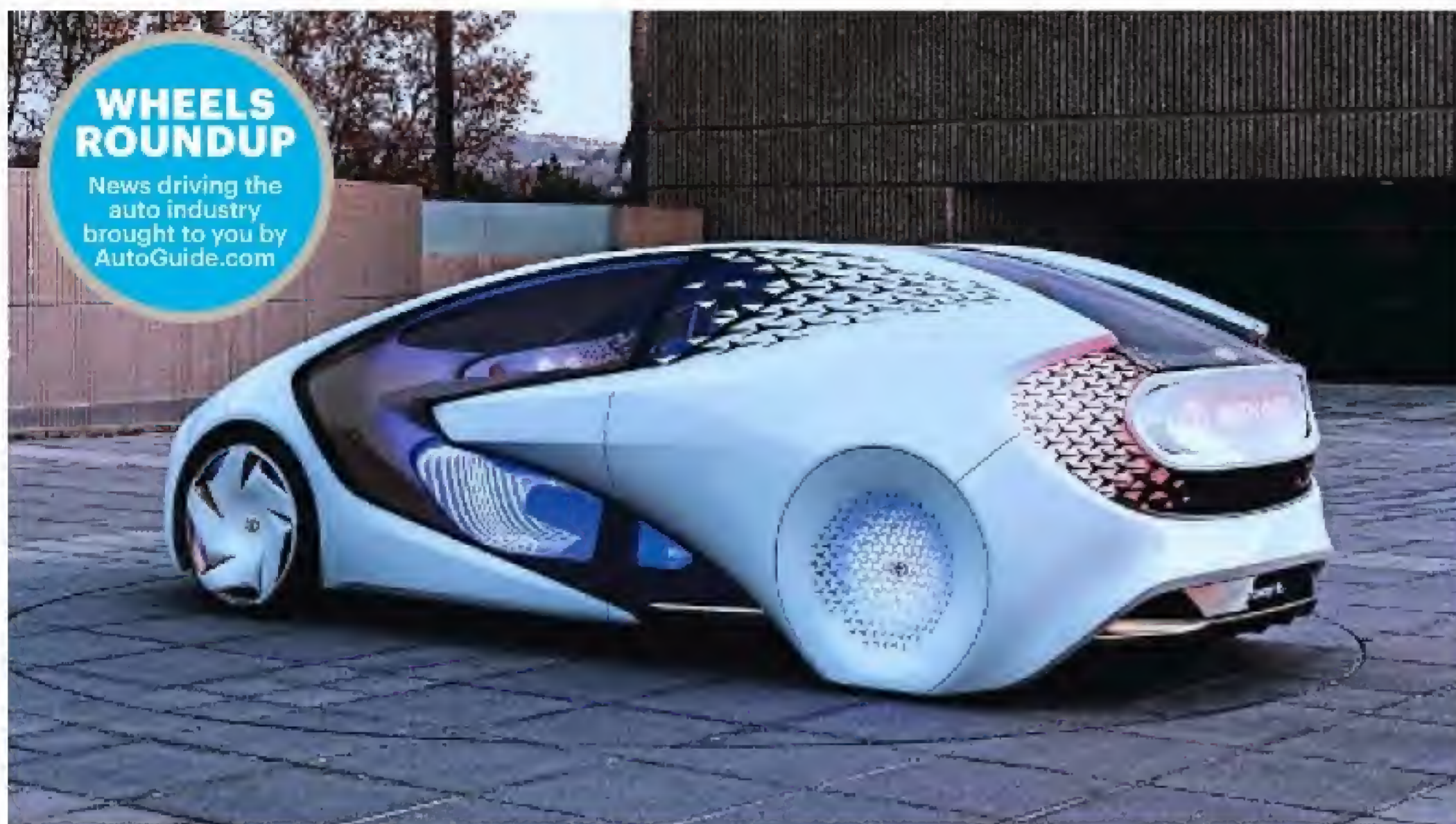
Volkswagen Beetle

"Smiles for miles" is a great way to describe what the Beetle brings to the table. That it rides on a platform that once underpinned the GTI certainly helps make a case for this retro-inspired ride's fun factor. A taut chassis and wheels pushed close to all four corners allow the quintessential compact to be tossed into a corner and live to tell the tale, while responsive handling give it a go kart-like responsiveness. It's also not a pricey proposition, with the Beetle hardtop starting at just \$19,990 in Canada.

Toyota creates 'kinetic warmth'

WHEELS ROUNDUP

News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com



CONCEPT-I

Toyota concept aims for emotional bond

Toyota recently rolled out the Concept-i, a car that looks like something Apple would have designed. But unlike other high-tech vehicle concepts, Toyota's latest isn't a fully autonomous vehicle. In fact, the concept demonstrates the automaker's view that vehicles of the future should start with the people who use them. With that in mind, Toyota equipped the Concept-i with a powerful AI that is capable of learning with the driver, building a relationship that is both meaningful and human. The AI Agent is nicknamed "Yui" and is designed to communicate across cultures to a global audience. According to the Japanese automaker, it was created around the philosophy of "kinetic warmth," a belief that mobility technology should be warm, welcoming and fun. The AI takes advantage of advanced automated vehicle technologies to help improve driving safety, combined with visual and haptic stimuli to augment communication-based on driver responsiveness. Users can choose between automated or manual driving based on their personal preference and the concept will monitor driver attention and road conditions, increasing automated support when necessary. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

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Lexus is covering all three modes of transportation: land, sea and air. After unveiling a luxurious yacht concept featuring a pair of 5.0-litre V8 engines, the Japanese automaker unveiled a replica of a key pursuit craft in the 2017 film *Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets*. The single-seater Skyjet premiered as part of an Lexus event in Miami that also showcased the brand's latest products.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM



ASTON MARTIN

Insane hypercar heads to Canada

For the first time since its debut, the radical AM-RB 001 will venture out from Aston Martin's headquarters in Gaydon, England, to make its North American debut in Toronto on Feb. 16, 2017. Its jump over the Atlantic puddle for the Canadian International Auto Show will be the hypercar's first appearance in front of the anoraks on the global auto show stage.

MICHAEL ACCARDI/AUTOGUIDE.COM





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Looks likely slugger Jose will remain a Blue Jay

MLB

Toronto not keen on losing another star after Edwin exit

The Toronto Blue Jays already lost one of their faces of the franchise this off-season. The team has made sure that Jose Bautista will not follow Edwin Encarnacion's lead.

A person with knowledge of the negotiations tells The Associated Press that the free agent outfielder is staying with the Toronto Blue Jays after agreeing to an \$18-million US, one-year contract with mutual options for more years.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the deal, said Bautista passed his physical and the contract was finalized Tuesday night.

Neither the team nor Bautista's agent Jay Alou would comment on the reports. Some of Bautista's teammates didn't wait for a formal announcement to celebrate his return.

"Put them hands up! JoeyBats is back!!! JoeyBats19," second baseman Devon Travis tweeted on Tuesday afternoon.

"Told y'all. Lol JoeyBats19," tweeted right-hander Marcus Stroman. Bautista, a six-time all-star, hit 22 homers and had 69 RBIs last year but injuries



Jays' Jose Bautista celebrates with fans after the Jays beat the Texas Rangers 7-6 during the ALDS last year. It looks like the slugger will be staying in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS/FRANK GUNN

limited him to just 116 games. He signed a US\$65-million, five-year deal in 2011 and the Blue Jays picked up a \$14-million team option last season.

Bautista rejected the team's \$17.2-million qualifying offer last fall, which ensured Toronto would receive compensation if he signed elsewhere as a free agent. In the end, it appears both sides have circled back

\$60M

Amount that Bautista's deal could rise to over 3 years as their are two mutual option years.

in what could be a good deal for all involved.

The veteran outfielder's return would certainly help ease the pain of losing one of the game's top hitters in Encarnacion. The Blue Jays were interested in re-signing Encarnacion, but he eventually signed a three-year deal with the Cleveland Indians.

A return to the Jays would also allow Bautista to show that he's still one of the

sport's top players with a chance to maximize the reported deal. The Blue Jays, meanwhile, would fill a need in the outfield, bring back a core member of their offense and potentially reap the benefits of a slugger who is motivated to perform.

The Blue Jays are coming off a second straight appearance in the American League Championship Series but have had a fairly quiet off-season. Toronto signed slugger Kendrys Morales, utilityman Steve Pearce and prospect Lourdes Gurriel Jr., but failing to bring back the popular Encarnacion did not go over well in the Ontario capital.

Bautista, 36, would bring some pop to a lineup that will miss Encarnacion, who hit 42 homers and 127 RBIs last season and was very consistent in recent years. Toronto's corner outfield positions were in desperate need of attention. While Bautista's best defensive days may be behind him, he would provide an adequate presence in right field.

In addition to his power numbers, Bautista's on-base percentage of .366 would also help a batting order that he would co-anchor with Morales, third baseman Josh Donaldson and shortstop Troy Tulowitzki. Bautista had a breakout season in 2010 with 54 homers and 124 RBIs and has been one of the sport's top sluggers ever since. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Struggling Islanders show coach Capuano the door

Stuck in last place in the Eastern Conference, the New York Islanders fired coach Jack Capuano on Tuesday, ending one of the longest tenures in the NHL.

General manager Garth Snow named assistant GM/coach Doug Weight as Capuano's interim replacement. The Islanders are 17-17-8 and their 42 points are the fewest in the East, leading to Snow making the move.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stars edge Rangers in epic

Patrick Sharp scored twice, Jamie Benn and Patrick Eaves had a goal and two assists each and the Dallas Stars held on for a wild 7-6 victory over the New York Rangers on Tuesday night.

Cody Eakin had a goal and an assist, Antoine Roussel and Adam Cracknell also scored and the Stars won for the third time in nine games (3-5-1). Radek Faksa and Lauri Korpikoski each had two assists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors cruise past Nets

DeMar DeRozan had 36 points and 11 rebounds, Cory Joseph scored a career-high 33 and Toronto beat free-falling Brooklyn.

Toronto won its fourth straight game and extended Brooklyn's losing streak to 11 in a row. The Nets have not won since Dec. 26. Terrence Ross added 15 points for the Raptors and Brook Lopez had 28 points for the Nets.

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Stadium gets explosive farewell



Taylor Gabriel of the Falcons notches a touchdown reception against the Packers' Demetri Goodson on Oct. 30 in Atlanta. The Falcons won 33-32. KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

High-scoring offences collide in final game at Georgia Dome

The high-scoring offences of the Atlanta Falcons and Green Bay Packers appear poised to provide a memorable send-off for the Georgia Dome.

Factor in the teams' leaky defences, and Sunday's NFC championship game could surge past the unusually high over/under of 60 1/2 points set by the Westgate Las Vegas Superbook.

The Falcons led the NFL in scoring. Even so, they know it won't be easy to keep up with the scoring pace set by quarterback Aaron Rodgers and the Packers.

"It's obvious they've got a stud at quarterback," Falcons left tackle Jake Matthews said

Tuesday. "We've played a lot of great teams with great players at quarterback. Whatever it takes, we just have to put up as many points as we need to."

Matthews said the weekly message from offensive co-ordinator Kyle Shanahan is "I don't know if we're going to have to win 6-3 or 40-37."

Of those alternatives, 40-37 appears to be the more likely target, in part because the Atlanta and Green Bay defences don't dominate the statistics like their offensive counterparts.

The game will be the Falcons' farewell to the Georgia Dome, which will be demol-

ished in the off-season. The Falcons will move into the \$1.5 billion Mercedes-Benz Stadium next season.

The Falcons and Packers finished the regular season ranked 28th and 31st, respectively, in pass defence. The Falcons allowed 25.4 points per game to rank 27th, only a few spots below the Packers (24.2) at 21st.

The Falcons beat the Packers 33-32 in Atlanta on Oct. 30. Atlanta led the NFL with 33.8 points per game.

Green Bay linebacker Nick Perry said the goal will be to prevent big plays.

"They are very explosive," Perry said. "When we look at the film, we have to make sure we don't give up those explosive plays. Everything lives off that."

The Falcons advanced with a 36-20 divisional playoff win over Seattle last week. Green Bay's offence also rolled in a 34-31 win over Dallas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

\$1.5B

The Falcons will be moving into the \$1.5-billion Mercedes-Benz Stadium next season.

NFL

Regretful Tomlin angry over Brown's video post

The father in Mike Tomlin regrets the language he used to describe the New England Patriots during the postgame speech Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown opted to livestream on social media after a taut playoff victory over Kansas City.



Mike Tomlin
GETTY IMAGES

A characteristically blunt Tomlin called Brown's decision to broadcast to the world more than 17 minutes of Pittsburgh's giddy locker room celebration — a move that caught Tomlin cursing regularly — "foolish," and "in-

considerate."

"Not only is it a violation of our policy, it's a violation of league policy, both of which he knows," Tomlin said Tuesday. "We will punish him. We won't punish us."

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DOD January 12, 2017,
Age 62

LYNDA ROZAK,
DOD January 14, 2017,
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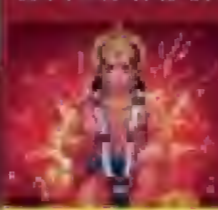
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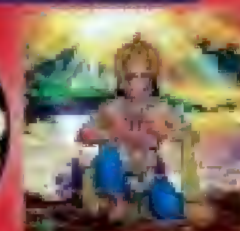
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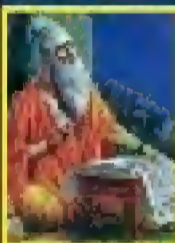
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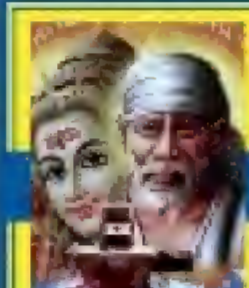
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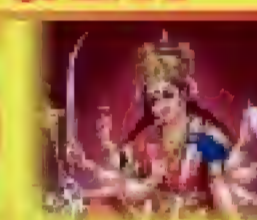
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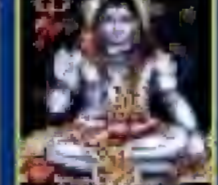
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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Sticky Garlic Chicken



PHOTO: MAYA VISNIE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



- 1 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tsp sesame seeds

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Lightly oil or spray a 9x13 baking dish.

2. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Working in batches, dip into egg, dredge in panko, pressing to coat. Place in baking dish. Bake until golden brown and crisp, about 15-20 minutes.

3. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine soy sauce, honey, garlic, hoisin sauce, ginger and vinegar until slightly thickened, about 2-3 minutes. Stir in chicken and gently toss to coat all chicken bites.

4. Serve immediately garnished with green onions and sesame seeds.

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Adults will love the flavourful mix of hoisin sauce (a Chinese bbq sauce), ginger and garlic but it's the honey's sticky deliciousness that will hook the littlest diners.

Ready in 30 minutes

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

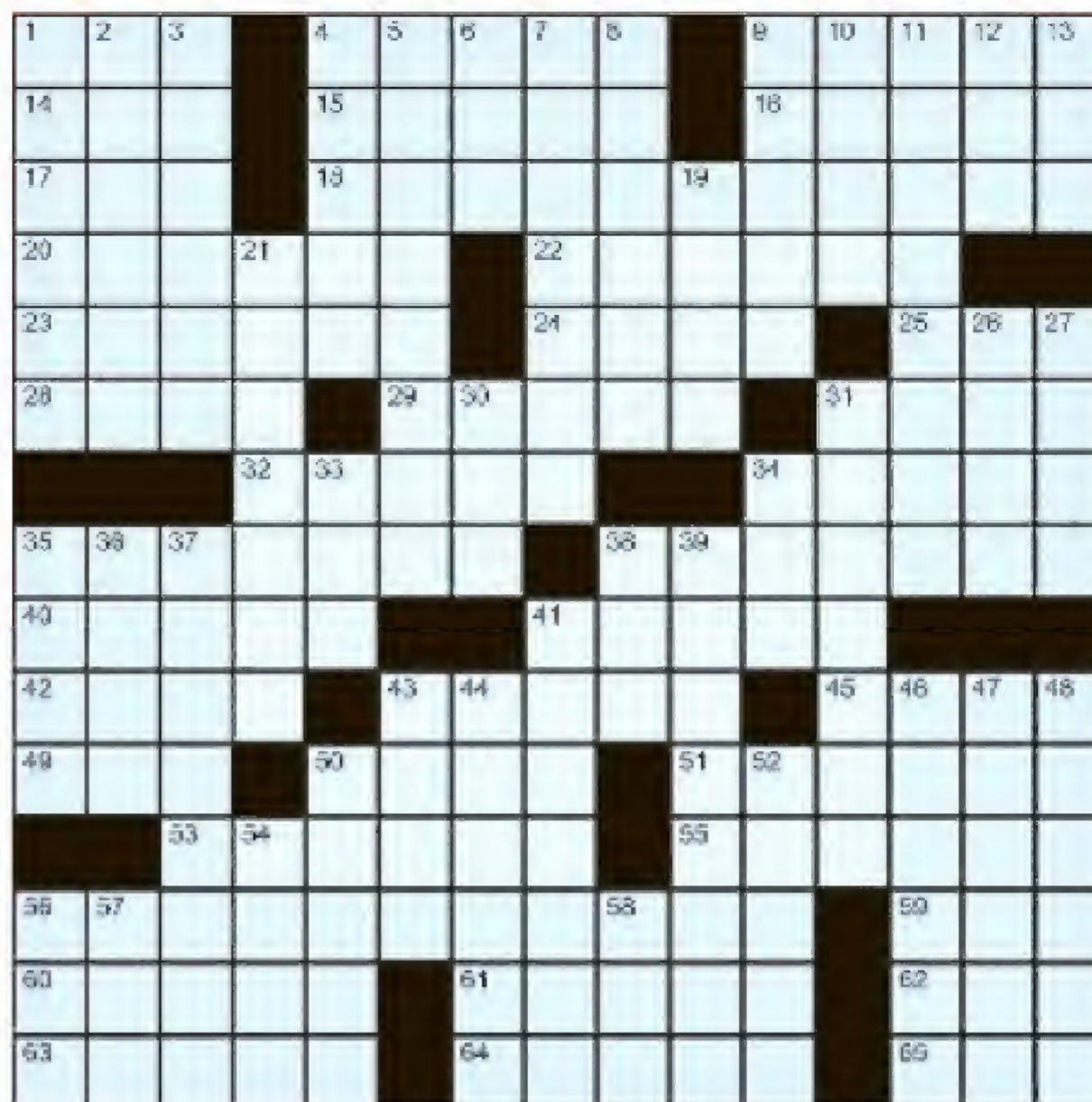
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch chunks
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 cup panko
- For the sauce:**
- 1/4 cup reduced sodium soy sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp hoisin sauce
- 1 Tbsp freshly grated ginger

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- High-arc shot on the court
- Nursemaids
- Carry on with mischief: 2 wds.
- 'Impress' suffix
- Historic Russian ruler
- Thor = __ god of thunder
- Ant & __ ("Britain's Got Talent" hosts)
- Plane's undercarriage: 2 wds.
- Visit a friend for coffee: 2 wds.
- Disinclined
- Sir __ Hillary (Everest mountaineer)
- Eugene of "Best in Show" (2000)
- How'er
- Achiever
- Bird of Jove
- In-a-bowl hot serving
- __-loading (Athlete's strategy)
- 'Right' or 'Blue' in the ocean
- Vivid
- Dolores O'__ (Cranberries songstress)
- Certain Celts
- Prefix to 'dyne' (Toothpaste brand)
- Stretched out circle
- Speeds for horses
- Provo's place
- Sales pro
- Like part of a triathlon
- Ingredient in table salt, Potassium __
- Not out/In-stead in one's do-



- main: 2 wds.
- One experiencing astonishment
- Newfoundland community near Gros Morne National Park: 2 wds.
- Not new
- Austrian pianist Mr. Schnabel
- Loosen the laces
- Mildly-disgusted interjection!
- Popular tunesmith, Carole __ Sager
- Type of car
- Nourished

DOWN

- Covered, as a tub of margarine
- Train too hard
- Get
- __-one
- Wanders
- Ms. Jillian
- 2004 Viggo Mortensen horse
- flick
- Whine
- Steamed
- Sprockets
- Arboreal amphibian: 2 wds.
- Letters on a Bruce Springsteen album
- Apiece
- Canadian name from

- "Scream" (1996)
- __ Mountains (Range in British Columbia)
- __-hoop
- Candid
- Mr. Vigoda
- Covers
- L'il response
- Canadian writer Mr. Mitchell, et al. (b.1914 - d.1998)
- Dr. Frankenstein's helper
- Place for church pews
- Canadian band which presumably might enjoy cucumber sandwiches: 2 wds.
- Soak flax
- Badge
- "__ Like You" by Adele
- Deuces
- Commotion
- Lead given by the insider
- Antarctica penguin
- Did a Border Collie's job
- Bake, as eggs
- Like the main ingredients in granola
- Unfeigned
- Apprehend
- British singer Rita
- "__ be my pleasure."

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Use all your powers of diplomacy and patience to deal with others today and avoid disputes and arguments. Admittedly, something unexpected will catch you off guard.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a classic day for equipment breakdowns or computer crashes at work. Be patient, because this will no doubt be frustrating. Use your Taurus diplomacy.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Parents should be vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Know where they are at all times. Be extra aware of potential hazards.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Family squabbles might erupt today because something unexpected happens. Small appliances might break down or minor breakages could occur. Have patience!

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Pay attention to everything you say and do today, because this is an accident-prone day. Make an effort to avoid arguments with others. Your own mental or emotional distraction is the reason an accident might occur.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Something unexpected will affect your cash or possessions today. This could create a problem with a romantic partner or one of your kids.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's easy to get into arguments with others today, because someone might do something out of the blue. Don't get your belly in a rash. Stay chill.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Avoid power struggles with others today, because they might arise. This could be because something goes haywire at work. Patience is your best ally.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Financial disputes with a female acquaintance might ruin your day today. Tread carefully. Don't start anything that you can't finish. (Maybe it's best not to start anything!)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Arguments with bosses and parents are likely today. Because sudden detours and surprises catch people off guard, they are easily upset. This is a tough day for a lot of people.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is an accident-prone day for you, so slow down and take it easy. Don't push the river. People feel impatient and sidetracked by the unexpected today. Stay mellow.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Squabbles about shared property and shared expenses might arise today. Ideally, try to postpone these discussions for another day.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



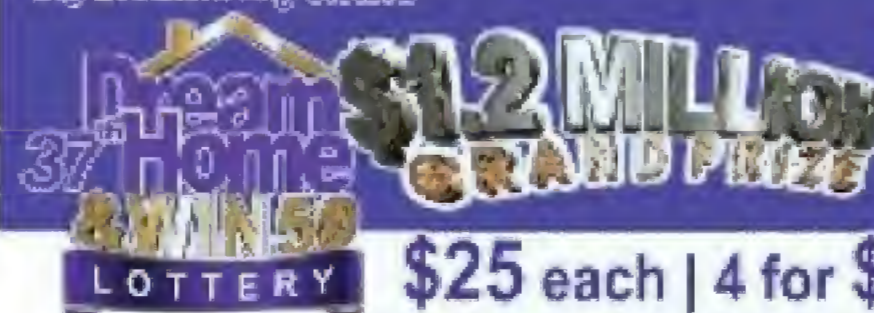
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Howie Mandel

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